

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 11-15 have been withdrawn as the result of the restriction requirement. Claims 1-10 remain in this application for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants request an initialed form PTO-1449 confirming consideration of references cited in the IDS filed on May 12, 2004.

The Examiner suggested that there is insufficient antecedent basis in claim 1, line 6, and therefore, claims 1-10 are held to be insufficient or vague and unclear. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended in order to clearly describe the subject matter of the invention.

The Examiner questioned the meaning of the language “for storing a distinction data for indicating” in claims 3 and 8 and “according to the distinction data” in claims 4 and 9. Applicants respectfully submit that the term “distinction data” is defined and explained in the specification at page 14, line 25-page 15, line 2. The distinction data is information for determining which one of the illumination recognition systems is going to be used between a transmission illumination recognition system and a reflection illumination recognition system. This data for each different electronic part is preliminarily saved to a mounting data storage (for example, 22 of Figure 5) along with other data, such as mounting positions of electronic parts and data peculiar to each different electronic part. Applicants believe that the term “distinction data” is clearly and expressly described in the specification, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for obviousness over Hashimoto (U.S. Patent 5,724,722, hereinafter “’722”) and Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,384,956, hereinafter “’956”). The rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. ’722 and ’956, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

As the Examiner concedes in the Office action, either ’722 or ’956 does not expressly teach an offset values storage. The Examiner, however, contends that because the controller (35) of ’722 makes calculations for determining position corrections during the positioning based on the result of the recognition, it is held to be obvious to provide an offset values storage. Applicants respectfully disagree. While in ’722 and ’956 calculations are made for a position correction, in the claimed invention the preliminarily saved offset values are read out for a position correction. The grounds for the rejection fail to offer any explanation as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would have considered the proposed modification obvious. Therefore, the grounds of the rejection fails to contain the elements necessary to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 1-10 (See, e.g., MPEP 706.02(j)).

With regard to claims 3 and 8, the Examiner contends that the controller 35 of ’722 would act as a mounting data storage for storing data for storing data gathered from one of the transmission recognition system and the reflection illumination system. Applicants respectfully disagree. The mounting data storage 22 of the claimed invention stores necessary data for mounting operations such as mounting positions of electronic parts and data peculiar to each different electronic part. ’722 does not teach or suggest that the controller 35 of ’722 stores data. The controller 35 of ’722 comprises a shaft controller 36, an input/output means 49, a main operating section and an image processing section, and it is apparent for the person skilled in the art that none of these elements would store data necessary for mounting operations. Therefore,

the grounds of the rejection fail to contain the elements necessary to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 3 and 8 (See, e.g., MPEP 706.02(j)).

With regard to claims 4 and 9, the Examiner contends that it is held to be mere design choice to select either the transmission or reflection illumination inasmuch as Applicants provide no specific purpose therefore nor solve any particular problem therewith. Applicants respectfully disagree. The significance of selecting from the two different illuminations is clearly described as an example in the Japanese patent application publication, Fujishiro et al. (JP H08-153997, hereinafter “Fujishiro”, an English translation of page 2 of this publication was submitted along with a form PTO-1449 filed on December 1, 2003), which is referred to in the application. Fujishiro discloses that one light source is fairly enough to observe an outline of conventional electronic parts, while two light sources are needed to observe an electronic parts with bumps. Introducing different types of illuminations makes it possible to observe different types of electronic parts. In the claimed invention, with the two different illuminations using four separate light sources, a mounting apparatus may observe several different types of electronic parts. Therefore, the grounds for the rejection fail to offer any explanation as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would have considered the proposed modification obvious, apart from the unsupported assertion that an illumination selector for selecting two illuminations in the claimed invention would have been an obvious matter of design choice. Thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned agent to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appl. No. 10/724,678
Amdt. Dated February 14, 2006
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If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No.36309.

Respectfully submitted,

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